I

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
LIBRARY

THE HEALTH OF HITCHIN RURAL DISTRICT

1972

HITCHIN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Members as at 31st December 1972

Chairman of the Council:

Councillor R.A. Lodge

Vice-Chairman of the Council:

Councillor I. O. Wren

Chairman of the Public Health Committee:

Councillor H. K. Swann

Vice-Chairman of the Public Health Committee:

Councillor J. M. Bray

Members of the Public Health Committee:

J. Bladon	R. A. Lodge
Miss E. M. Brookes	Mrs. M. J. McMurtrie
Mrs. E. Cory-Wright	J. A. Raffell
J. J. A. Crumpholt	D. G. Stedman
H. C. Freeman	E. Stone
E. P. Grossé	G. M. Timbury
Rev. J. A. Holden	I. O. Wren

Medical Officer of Health:

James D. Hall, M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

William M. Mathews, M.A.P.H.I.
Certs. Joint Board
Meat and Foods
Sanitary Science
Smoke Inspection

Additional Inspectors:

R. B. Bolt, M.A.P.H.I., M. Inst. P.C.
Certs. Joint Board
Testamur of Inst. of
Public Cleansing

L. G. Stribley, M.A.P.H.I.
Certs. Joint Board
Meat and Foods

C. D. Mayes, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.
Diploma of the Public Health
Inspectors Education Board

PREFACE

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
Grammar School Walk,
HITCHIN.

To the Chairman and Members of the Hitchin Rural District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1972.

The population of the rural district again increased mainly due to migration into the area; the birth rate remaining constant.

No maternal deaths occurred.

The infant mortality rate declined and was again below the national average.

The perinatal mortality rate remained the same as the previous year and was again lower than England and Wales and the surrounding areas of North Hertfordshire.

The death rate from all causes was lower than that for 1971. It was also lower than the rate for the rest of the county and for England and Wales. The commonest cause of death continued to be diseases of the heart and blood vessels, although this rate was again somewhat lower than the previous year. Cancer remains the second commonest cause.

No deaths occurred from tuberculosis.

There were no outbreaks of any serious epidemics, and the state of public health in the rural district of Hitchin remains satisfactory.

I would like to express my thanks to the public health and health and welfare staff in the rural district of Hitchin, including those concerned with administration, for their help and co-operation during the year.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

J. D. HALL

Medical Officer of Health

Divisional Health Office,
Bedford Road,
Hitchin,
Hertfordshire.

Telephone No: Hitchin 50411

SECTION 'A'

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE HITCHIN RURAL AREA.

a) GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	81,099
Registrar General's estimate of Resident population Mid 1972	25,960
Number of inhabited houses at 1st April 1972 (estimated)	9,000
Rateable value - 31st December, 1972	£1,032,039
Net product of 1p rate	£9,726

b) PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The Registrar General's estimate of resident population for Mid 1972 reveals an overall increase of 270. Natural increase of population i.e. excess of births over deaths for the year was 101.

HITCHIN RURAL VITAL STATISTICS 1972

	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL
LIVE BIRTHS			
Total	183	176	359
Legitimate	173	161	334
Illegitimate	10	15	25
Live Birth Rate (Uncorrected) per 1,000 population	-	-	13.8
Live Birth Rate (Corrected) per 1,000 population	-	-	14.2
Illegitimate live births percentage of total live births	-	-	7.0
STILL-BIRTHS			
Total	-	1	1
Rate per 1,000 live and still-births	-5	-	3.0
Total live and still-births	183	177	360
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE			
Total	5	2	7
Legitimate	5	2	7
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	-	-	19.0
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	-	-	21.0
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	-	-	-
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	-	-	17.0
Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	-	-	17.0
Perinatal Mortality Rate (still-births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)	-	-	19.0
MATERNAL MORTALITY, INCLUDING ABORTION			
Number of deaths	-	-	-
Rate per 1,000 total live and still-births	-	-	-
TOTAL DEATHS	145	113	258
Death Rate (Uncorrected)	-	-	9.9
Death Rate (Corrected)	-	-	10.3
Natural increase of population	-	-	101
Overall increase of population	-	-	270

CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1972

Cause of Death	Males	Females	Total
Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity etc.	1	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Desophagus	1	1	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	2	4	6
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	4	-	4
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	16	-	16
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	5	5
Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	1	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	-	3	3
Leukaemia	1	1	2
Other Malignant Neoplasms	6	4	10
Diabetes Mellitus	2	1	3
Mental Disorders	-	1	1
Other Diseases of Nervous System	1	1	2
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	1	-	1
Hypertensive Disease	-	3	3
Ischaemic Heart Disease	41	24	65
Other Forms of Heart Disease	5	6	11
Cerebrovascular Disease	15	24	39
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	6	12	18
Influenze	-	1	1
Pneumonia	11	9	20
Bronchitis and Emphysema	7	2	9
Asthma	1	-	1
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	-	1	1
Peptic Ulcer	2	-	2
Cirrhosis of Liver	2	1	3
Other Diseases of Digestive System	1	1	2
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	-	1
Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	-	2	2
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	1	-	1
Congenital Anomalies	3	1	4
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	2	1	3
Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	2	-	2
Symptoms and Ill Defined Conditions	1	-	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	-	2
All other Accidents	4	2	6
Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	2	2	4
Total All Causes	145	113	258

DEATHS IN AGE GROUPS	Males	Females	Total
Under 1 year	5	2	7
1 - 4 years	3	-	3
5 - 14 years	1	-	1
15 - 24 years	2	1	3
25 - 34 years	3	-	3
35 - 44 years	2	4	6
45 - 54 years	8	3	11
55 - 64 years	32	17	49
65 - 74 years	37	27	64
75 and over	52	59	111
All causes	145	113	258

POPULATION STATISTICS

	District 1972 HITCHIN R.D.C.	North Hertford shire Division	Hertford shire	England and Wales
Population	25,960	171,490	940,630	49,028,900
Live Births (Crude) Live Births (Corrected)	13.8 14.2	15.4	14.3 14.0	14.8 14.8
Death Rate - All causes, Crude Death Rate - All causes, Corrected	9.9 10.3	8.5	9.5 10.5	12.1 12.1
Infective and Parasitic Diseases - excluding Tuberculosis but including Syphillis and other V.D.	0.00	0.01	0.04	*
Tuberculosis: Respiratory Other Forms	 0.00 0.00	0.00	0.01	*
Cancer: Lung and Bronchs. Other	0.61 1.30	0.50 1.30	) 2.06)	*
Vascular Lesion of the Nervous System	1.50	1.20	1.33	*
Heart and Circulatory Diseases	3.77	2.88	2.80	*
Respiratory Diseases	1.23	1.10	1.43	*
Maternal Mortality	0.00	0.00	0.00	*
Infantile Mortality	19.0	16.9	13.4	17.2
Neo-Natal Mortality	17.0	11.7	9.1	11.5
Early Neo-Natal Mortality	17.0	10.5	8.0	9.8
Perinatal Mortality	19.0	22.7	19.6	21.7
Still-Births	3.0	12.3	11.8	12.0

* not available

SECTION 'B'

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE HITCHIN RURAL AREA

LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY SERVICES

CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN - SECTION 22

Family Planning Clinic

Sessions:

Hitchin - Divisional Health Office, Bedford Road	-	Tuesday Afternoon Wednesday Evening Thursday morning
Letchworth - Health Centre, Nevells Road	-	Monday evening
Stevenage - Trotts Hill Clinic	-	Monday morning Tuesday afternoon Friday morning
Peartree Health Annexe	-	Wednesday morning
Lodge Farm Health Annexe	-	Thursday morning
County Health Centre, Southgate	-	Thursday evening

1972

	No. of New Patients	Total No. of Attendances
HITCHIN	347	3,568
LETCHWORTH	190	1,700
STEVENAGE	759	6,640

Infant Welfare Clinics

Infant Welfare Centre, Merchant Taylors' Further Education Centre, ASHWELL.	1st Friday 2-4 p.m. 3rd Friday 2-4 p.m.	Health Visitor Dr. S.J.Moynihan
Infant Welfare Centre, BARKWAY (mobile)	2nd Monday 10 a.m. - 12 noon	Dr. S.J. Moynihan
Infant Welfare Centre, Union Church Hall, High Street, CODICOTE	2nd Thursday 2-4 p.m. 4th Thursday 2-4 p.m.	Dr. S. Davies Health Visitor
Infant Welfare Centre, PIRTON (mobile)	1st Monday 10 a.m. - 12 noon 3rd Monday 2-4 p.m.	 Dr. F. Woodthorpe Health Visitor
Infant Welfare Centre, Memorial Hall, Hall Lane, KIMPTON	2nd Monday 2-4 p.m. 1st Monday 2-4 p.m.	Health Visitor Dr. Rushton
Infant Welfare Centre, ICKLEFORD (mobile)	1st Wednesday 2-4 p.m. 3rd Wednesday 2-4 p.m.	Health Visitor Dr. W. Cowen
Infant Welfare Centre, Village Hall, GREAT OFFLEY	1st Thursday 2-4 p.m.	Dr. S. Davies
Infant Welfare Centre, SANDON (mobile)	1st Wednesday 10 a.m. - 12 noon	Dr. S.J. Moynihan
Infant Welfare Centre, WHITWELL (mobile)	4th Thursday 2-4 p.m.	Dr. S. Davies
Infant Welfare Centre, WYMONDLEY (mobile)	2nd Wednesday 10 a.m. - 12 noon	Dr. Whalley
Infant Welfare Centre, WESTON (mobile)	1st Friday 10 a.m. - 12 noon	Dr. S.J. Moynihan

Clinic	Children Born in 1972	Children Born in 1971	Children Born in 1967 - 70	No. of Attendances
Hitchin Rural	318	152	217	3,192

CHILD HEALTH ASSESSMENT UNIT

Children Born in	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968 and over
Hitchin R.D.C.	-	2	-	1	12

Premature Infants

A premature infant is one which weighs $5\frac{1}{2}$ lb. or less at birth.

PREMATURE INFANTS BORN IN 1972

District	Born Alive			Stillbirths			No. removed to Hosp. after birth.	Died under 28 days			No. who survived 28 days		
	At Home	In Hosp.	Total	At Home	In Hosp.	Total		At Home	In Hosp.	Total	At Home	In Hosp.	Total
Hitchin Rural	-	7 + 1 triplets	10	-	2	2	-	-	2	2	-	8	8

MIDWIFERY - SECTION 23

DOMICILIARY MIDWIFERY

Ante-Natal visits to Expectant Mothers	373
Home Condition Reports for Hospitals	70
Ante-Natal Session - General Practitioner	-
Deliveries - Home	16
Deliveries - Hospital	406

HEALTH VISITING - SECTION 24

Health Visiting:

Child Welfare	Visits	1,631
Aged	Visits	262
Others	Visits	742
School Inspections	Sessions	110
Maternity and Child Welfare	Sessions	179

AMBULANCE SERVICE - SECTION 27 - NORTH HERTS

Number of Patients conveyed	69,081
Number of journeys	30,853
Total mileage	458,555

Details of Journeys

Accidents	1,601
Sudden Illness	784
Removals	65,953
Maternity	743

The divisional area is served by the County Ambulance Station at St. George's Way, Stevenage. The Area Supervisor is Mr. J. Sweetman, who has kindly supplied the above statistics.

PREVENTION OF ILLNESS: CARE AND AFTER CARE - SECTION 28

The Medical Loan Service continues to be delegated to the British Red Cross Society and St. John's Ambulance and these organisations play a large part in providing equipment and aids to the ill and handicapped at home. For this voluntary service we should like to express our thanks.

CHEST CLINIC

Health Visiting:

Tuberculosis Households - visits	264
B.C.G. Follow-up - visits	46
Contacts - visits	120
Non-Tuberculosis - visits	140
New Cases	17
Contacts of New Cases	79
Heaf Negative	56

The incidence of tuberculosis continued at a low level in this area.

VENEREAL DISEASES

Number of New Cases in 1972

	Male	Female	Total all Venereal Conditions
Lister Hospital, Hitchin	221	142	363

The return from Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge, has been omitted since it refers to the whole of the geographical county of Hertfordshire. These figures are, therefore, deficient by an unknown number in addition to the deficiencies caused by the treatment of patients from this area in London and elsewhere.

CERVICAL CYTOLOGY - NORTH HERTS - 1972

CLINICS	No. of First Attendances	No. of Subsequent Attendances	% of Pop. at risk Attending	Negative	Further Investigation Recommended	Results of Tests with Inflamation				Other Findings
						Non-Specific	Trichomonas	Candida	Viral	
HITCHIN	205	342	i) 3 ii) 4	468	-	218	11	23	-	-
LETCHWORTH	56	166	i) 3 ii) 3	195	1	117	4	1	- Y	2
STEVENAGE	419	421	i) 8 ii)11	849	6	354	30	24	1	-
ROYSTON	40	55	i)0.53 ii) 2.	95	-	94	-	1	7	7

CYTOLOGY CLINIC

"WELL WOMAN" CLINIC - JANUARY 1972

Hitchin	-	Every Wednesday a.m.
Letchworth	-	1st and 3rd Tuesdays a.m.
Stevenage	-	Thursday a.m. and Friday p.m.
Royston		Every third Wednesday in the month a.m.

From a total of 720 no positives were discovered.

Cervical Cytology continued:

i) Aged 20 and over

ii) Aged 30 and over

Population at Risk Women (Sample Census 1966 - estimated error 1.6 per cent deficient).

Baldock U.D.	i) 2,080 ii) 1,740	Royston U.D.	i) 2,260 ii) 1,860
Hitchin U.D.	i) 9,540 ii) 7,900	Stevenage U.D.	i) 16,200 ii) 12,350
Letchworth U.D.	i) 9,480 ii) 7,950	Hitchin R.D.	i) 8,560 ii) 7,200
	TOTAL AT RISK	i) 48,120 ii) 39,000	

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 - SECTION 47

This section of the Act is concerned with the compulsory removal of persons in need of care from their homes on a Court Order, or in emergency on an Order signed by two medical practitioners and a Justice of the Peace. Such a person may be removed to a county home or hospital provided that all sections of the Act are satisfied.

Such action was not necessary during 1972.

HOSPITAL SERVICES

The hospital services for the area are administered by the North West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board with the Luton and Hitchin Hospital Management Committee. Addenbrooke's Hospital is administered by the United Cambridge Hospitals.

GENERAL HOSPITAL SERVICES

North Hertfordshire Hospital, Hitchin

Lister Hospital, Hitchin

Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge

MENTAL HOSPITAL

Fairfield Hospital, Stotfold.

MATERNITY HOSPITAL SERVICES

North Hertfordshire Maternity Unit, Hitchin

CHEST CLINIC

Lister Hospital, Hitchin

LABORATORY SERVICES

Dr. A.T. Willis, Director, Public Health Laboratory, Luton and Dunstable Hospital, Lewsey Road, Luton, Beds.

Dr. G.R.E. Maylor, Director, Public Health Laboratory, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge.

HOME NURSING - SECTION 25

The following are statistics relating to the work of the home nurses in 1972. It will be seen that they made 6,723 visits to 811 patients.

HOME NURSING

Classification	No. of cases attended	No. of visits made
Medical	490	5,428
Surgical	260	1,109
Tuberculosis	1	2
Others	60	184
TOTALS	811	6,723

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SECTION 28 - NORTH HERTS.

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SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES

TABLE I HITCHIN RURAL

Inspection of School Children 1972

Entrants	407
Secondary selective and consultative	-
Number of special inspections	17
Number of Re-inspections	217

Physical condition of Pupils inspected

Satisfactory	631

The Consultant Paediatrician for the area, Dr. C.G. Fagg, is always available for consultation and I am indebted to him for his help during the year.

I would also acknowledge the help and co-operation from Dr. C. Firth - Consultant Geriatrician and Dr. B. Mallett - Consultant Psychatrist.

Dr. Roper has played a large part in the School Health Service and I am grateful to her also.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1972

SECTION C

Staff

For several years, Mr. R.B.Bolt has enjoyed only indifferent health but in June 1972 he became more seriously ill and, apart from a few days at work, it proved necessary for him to be absent on extended sick leave. His wife, Mrs. D. Bolt, also worked in the department as a senior clerical assistant and towards the end of the year it was necessary to grant her leave in order to look after Mr. Bolt.

The loss of two vastly experienced members from a small staff (both had received the Council's 25 years service award) was a serious blow to the department's functioning. At the end of the year both were still absent from work and the indications were that neither would be able to resume.

In order to make up for the staff deficiences, changes in duties were made and the Council have been very well served by the remainder of the staff who have shewn great interest and effort in trying to meet all the demands made upon them.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

Water supplies

The Lee Valley Water Company's monthly reports on samples taken throughout the district, indicate that 663 bacteriological samples and 29 chemical samples all proved to be satisfactory.

The Water Company also report as follows -

(a) The water supply of the area has been satisfactory (i) in quality and (ii) in quantity.

(b) 19 chemical and 255 bacteriological examinations of raw water were made. 9 of the latter contained E. Coli. The bacteriological quality of raw water sampled is shown in the appended table. With reference to treated water, you will have received the monthly reports from the Chief Chemist and Bacteriologist. The fluoride content of the various supplies within the Rural District of Hitchin is invariably recorded as "less than 0.2 parts per million".

(c) The waters are not liable to have plumbo solvent action.

(d) No positive coliform samples of treated water. No action had to be taken.

(e) The number of dwelling houses supplied is shown on the attached schedule. (Table 2) It is not possible to give separate figures for these properties supplied direct from the mains and those supplied by means of standpipes.

(f) The estimated population supplied is 26,269.

Table 1.

Bacteriological Quality of Raw Water - January 1st to December 31st 1972

Pumping Stations	No. of Samples Examined	E. Coli Absent/Mls	E. Coli present in Mls. 100	50	10
Chipping	46	46	-	-	-
Codicote	51	51	-	-	-
Kings Walden	50	50	-	-	-
Watton Road	57	48	3	6	-
Wymondley	51	51	-	-	-
Totals	255	246	3	6	-

Table 2

Number of Dwelling Houses Supplied

Parish	No.Props. Sept.1972	Parish	No.Props. Sept.1972
Ashwell	511	Lilley	150
Barkway	218	Newnham	41
Barley	212	Nuthampstead	45
Bygrave	87	Offley	497
Clothall	58	Pirton	400
Codicote	848	Preston	107
Graveley	127	Radwell	34
Hexton	43	Reed	93
Hinxworth	87	Rushden	80
Holwell	160	St. Ippollitts	524
Ickleford	616	St. Paul's Walden	544
Kelshall	58	Sandon	177
Kimpton	630	Therfield	155
King's Walden	357	Wallington	48
Knebworth	1256	Weston	345
Langley	54	Wymondley	373

Total 8,935

Samples were taken by the Public Health Department also, as follows -

	No. taken	Satis-factory	Unsatis-factory	Doubtful
1. Bulk Supplies from				
Lee Valley Water Co.	3	3	-	-
2. Private Sources	32	14	18	-
	35	17	18	-

Public Swimming Baths

There are no public swimming baths in the Hitchin Rural District but two schools, Princess Helena College, Preston and Kingshott School, St.Ippollitts have private installations.

Sewerage and Sewage Treatment

The Surveyor reports as follows, on the position at 31st December 1972 -

The maintenance of the Sewage Treatment Works continues at a satisfactory standard, and the Work Study based bonus scheme is proving successful.

During the year the Council considered their programme for the ensuing five years. Reports have been prepared for sewering the villages of Hinxworth and Barley and extending the sewers in Holwell, together with the provision of a modern treatment works at Ashwell for the villages of Ashwell and Hinxworth, and the expansion of the Barkway works for dealing with the sewage from Barley, and these reports are to be considered by the Council early in 1973.

A tender has been accepted for the Pirton Scheme and work is due to commence in February, 1973. Progress on the design of the Lilley and Offley scheme continues, and provisional departmental approval has been given.

A considerable amount of work has been involved in preparing for the reorganisation due to the proposed River Water Authorities. This Council's area falls within three working party areas.

Public Cleansing Service.

In the 1970 Report, the first occasion when industrial action caused any disruption of these services was referred to. Happily, this interruption was on a small scale only and the commencement of the Bonus Scheme in 1971 virtually ensured that further incidents were less likely. Two new Shelvoke and Drewry vehicles, CNK 221 K and DNK 607 K were received during 1972 and one of these represented an ADDITIONAL vehicle. The crew of four men were recruited in mid-year and the normal vehicle fleet then became FIVE machines in everyday use. This meant that extra areas could be provided with a weekly refuse collection service and by the end of the year, the proportion of properties enjoying such facility was thought to be above 80%. The Council authorised orders for further vehicles to be received in 1973 and again, one would be an ADDITIONAL vehicle enabling still further improvements in the service to be made during that year.

In 1971, the Council appointed a Vehicle Maintenance Fitter, R. Macbeth, who set himself to perform the Council's own repair and maintenance work. This is a very considerable task which has been carried out with great ability and conscientiousness. Very little work is sent out, including even the needs of heavy tractors. Simultaneously with this activity, new routines have had to be developed to ensure that vehicles would pass M.O.T. tests satisfactorily. Experience has shewn that it requires about one week's work to repair and prepare a large vehicle for an M.O.T. test but it is very gratifying to note that the Council appear to be earning quite a reputation for the condition of the vehicles submitted. Up to the end of 1972, 12 M.O.T. tests had been taken and no failure has yet been experienced. Such things are important of course in helping to secure the continuance of the Council's Operator's Licence. Additionally, certain alterations to the Gosmore Depot were made to permit better placing of the vehicles and at the same time, a Maintenance Fitter's store was provided.

During 1972, public attention became focussed upon the improper disposal of dangerous waste materials such as cyanides. Enquiries were made on a considerable scale to establish if the rural district was being affected by this kind of dumping but nothing that gave cause for concern was found. As a result of the notifications being received under the Deposit of Poisonous Waste Act 1972 it would appear again that there are no substances entering the district to occasion any anxiety.

The consultations between North Herts. and South Beds. authorities regarding future refuse disposal facilities continued during 1972 because of the uncertainty felt concerning the shrinking disposal capacities of several Councils' tips. During the year, consultants were engaged and they provided an Assessment Study of the possibilities of jointly building an Incinerator. By the end of the year, as local government Re-organisation pressurised the minds of Members and Officers of Councils, it seemed likely that the responsibility for refuse disposal after March 1974 would devolve upon the Herts County Council. The presently used Holwell Tip should provide a tipping outlet for the three Councils delivering there for a least two years. However, if refuse from Hitchin Urban District is diverted there also this remaining life will be reduced correspondingly. Hence it becomes readily apparent why there has been anxiety for some time that the one remaining outlet for tipping (Holwell) should not become exhausted before an alternative disposal situation becomes available.

The collection of bulky articles and materials dumped in the countryside has been continued and along with the delivery of the Council's own plastic sack holders, this engages two men for virtually the whole of their time. There is no doubt that, as a result of the activities of gipsies and others, some country lanes and pathways would be unsightly without this Civic Amenities service.

Scrap vehicles continue to require regular attention. The number dealt with in the year was 49 of which orders for removal had to be placed in 24 cases.

Refuse Collected

Year	No.of Loads	Approx. weight of all materials collected	Vehicle Mileage	(including Foreman's van and two lorries)
1967	1690	6885 tons	51,591	(three packing-type vehicles and Karrier)
1968	1838	7322 "	54,528	(- ditto - and lorry for special coll.)
1969	1878	7413 "	65,690	(- ditto -)
1970	1689	6442 "	67,939	(four packing-type vehicles and lorry)
1971	1499	6849 "	63,615	(- ditto -)
1972	1492	6765 "	71,726	(five packing-type vehicles and lorry)

It will be seen that the figures for Loads collected and estimated weight of refuse handled remain fairly stable but the mileage travelled is much higher. This is due to the activities of the fifth (Additional) vehicle which commenced operations in mid-year. Holwell Tip received 18,259 tons of refuse during the year. The two principal difficulties experienced there are gale force winds and gipsies.

Cesspool Emptying and Night-soil Collection

The two vehicles, VUR 482 J and LRO 381 H continued to render good service with BRO 643 B as the spare machine. The use of the larger tank (1,500 galls) on VUR 482 J along with the Bonus Scheme for the men, produced a situation in which the third vehicle was only lightly used and the peak period for requests never caused a wait for service above 3 weeks and emergencies could usually be accorded generous treatment. A considerable amount of work continues to be performed for the Surveyor at sewage disposal works.

The following is an outline of the work performed:-

Year	Number of cesspools emptied at:- Houses in Private ownership Free	Houses in Private ownership Chargeable	Council Houses Free	Council Houses Chargeable	Loads from Sewage Works	Pails emptied
1969	846	447	10	70	863	3732
1970	746	447	8	54	793	2907
1971	867	481	8	36	747	2236
1972	862	527	5	27	836¾	2069

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949

During the year vehicle OUR 810 D was transferred to duties as a spare machine for light vans. A slightly larger vehicle VAR 721 E was taken over from the Surveyors Department. This was reconditioned and fitted out with racks by the vehicle maintenance fitter and has proved a useful machine for its present purpose. The summary of work done by the rodent operator (R.F. Eppy) is as follows:-

SUMMARY FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1st to DECEMBER 31st 1972

Sewers	Tips etc.	Private Dwellings	Business Premises	Agric. Land etc.	TOTAL
114½	408½	1065¾	91¼	237	1917
Time spent on vehicle maintenance, receiving instruction, reports on visits, bait handling etc.					177
				Total hours worked	2094

Total mileage covered by Council's Vans - 12,342

Petrol used - 499 gals

Average M.P.G. - 24.73

The Animal Boarding Establishments Act 1963

At the close of the year the number of premises registered was 5. All were visited during the year and no serious cases of contraventions were found.

Pet Animals Act 1951

During the year two premises were registered under this act.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963.

During the year there were 6 additional registrations and at 31st December the total number of premises registered was 88. The number of visits made to these premises was 71.

Public Health Inspection of the Area.

The following summary gives information in respect of the visits and inspections performed:-

General Sanitation etc.	1971	1972
Water Supply	88	103
Drainage	466	474
Cowsheds, Stables, Piggeries etc.	2	7
Ponds and Ditches	19	14
Caravan sites etc	82	55
Factories, Workplaces and Outworkers	189	153
Licensed Premises	27	49
Refuse Collection and Disposal, Vehicle Maintenance etc.	471	355
Re Derelict Cars	200	220
Re Gipsies, gipsy sites etc.	97	51
Rodent Control	98	74
Atmospheric Pollution	22	19
Schools	16	2
Shops (excl. visits re OSR Act 1963)	47	40
Petroleum Regulations	199	198
Noise Nuisances	50	81
Re Animal Boarding Establishments and Pet Shops	14	11
Re Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963	111	47
Miscellaneous Visits	134	78
Housing		
Public Health Act - visits paid..	317	540
Housing Acts	79	459
Filthy or Verminous Premises	-	12
Overcrowding	2	2
Miscellaneous Housing visits	48	77
Infectious Diseases etc.		
Miscellaneous Infectious Disease visits	82	9
Food Poisoning	6	13
Visits to Immigrants (re Health Services etc.)	5	11
Inquiries in cases of I.D.	-	7
Meat and Food (inc. inspection of Premises)		
Bakers and Confectioners	2	4
Butchers	31	31
Canteens	-	-
Dairies, Milk Distributors etc.	3	2
Poulterers, Poultry and Packing Stations etc.	22	38
Food preparing premises	15	8
Grocers	43	41
Ice-Cream Premises (excl. visits re sampling)	8	7
Restaurants	46	29
Mobile Shops	20	14
Greengrocers	3	2
Knacker's Yard	-	6
Schools	-	2
Re Sampling		
Milk	-	2
Ice-Cream	6	29
Miscellaneous Food Visits	26	37
	3096	3468

SECTION D

Housing

The Housing Manager reports that on 31st December 1972, the number of applications on the Council's waiting list for accommodation was 631, this being an increase of 138 over the previous year. New applications registered during the year numbered 256 and 118 were deleted from the lists. The figure of 118 was composed of 66 who were housed and 52 due to cancellation, either at the applicant's request or failure to re-register.

The Council's policy of re-housing applicants from their existing tenants who desire a more appropriate sized property for their present needs was continued and during the year it was possible to deal with 44 families in this way.

The Surveyor's report on new buildings etc. for 1972 is as follows:-

No. of new Council dwellings completed	- 11
No. of new private dwellings completed	- 84
No. of new Housing Association dwellings completed	-

No. of dwellings under construction as at 31st. December, 1972 were as follows:-

No. of Council dwellings	- 27
No. of private dwellings	-156
No. of Housing Association dwellings	-

Improvement Grants approved	
Discretionary	- 70
Standard	- 22

The modernisation of 88 pre-war Council houses was completed during the year in the following villages:-

Kimpton	- 12
St. Pauls Walden	- 8
Knebworth	- 28
Offley	- 28
Preston	- 2
Pirton	- 10

On 31st December, 69 pre-war Council houses were in the course of modernisation in the following villages:-

Offley	- 6
Preston	- 12
Pirton	- 23
Weston	- 28

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960

The number of caravans on licensed sites at the end of the year was 151, of which about 90 are on four large sites.

Common Lodging Houses

There are no Common Lodging Houses in the Council's District.

SECTION E

Food and Drugs Act 1955

(a) Milk

The number of registered dairies remains at 2. There were no complaints respecting milk or milk bottles during 1972; neither was there any occasion when follow-up action was required regarding milk containing Brucella organisms.

(b) There are no Egg Pasteurisation plants in the Rural District.

(c) Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1970

The number and type of food premises, listed according to the principal business carried on, are as follows:-

Type of Business	No. in District
Grocers and Confectioners	45
Butchers	14
Bakers and Confectioners	3
Fishmongers (wet fish)	3
Fruiterers, Greengrocers and Confectioners	4
Confectioners (sweets only)	5
Cafes, Restaurants and Catering Establishments	9
Public Houses	69
Off-Licence	3
Premises from which milk is sold	6
Poultry Packing and Processing Stations	3
Chemists	2
Hotels/Motels	6
	172

All premises comply with Regulation 16 of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1970 (dealing with handbasins). There are 108 premises to which Regulation 19 (washing sinks) applies and all premises conform to its requirements.

There are no premises registered for the manufacture of ice-cream, but 73 establishments are registered for ice-cream sales. Thirteen (satisfactory) samples were taken during the year.

There are 21 premises registered and in use under the classification of "Preparation or Manufacture of Preserved Foods etc.". Some 80 visits were made to registered food premises during the year. The inspection of plans submitted continues to be a good method of ensuring that work to be performed is likely to be in compliance with good food hygiene practice.

The relatively small amounts of foods condemned were as follows:-

	Cwts.	Qtrs.	Lbs.
Baby Cereal			8
Fresh Meat			16
Canned Fruit			10
Poultry Fresh		3	18
Sweets and Chocolates.(Damaged by fire)	1	-	5

There were a number of occasions when investigations were set in motion concerning unsatisfactory bread, canned apricot filling, sweets, and a piece of glass found in a packet of peanuts. These complaints require time and persistence and often prove to be complicated but the enquiries made help to alert manufactureres regarding the need for continuous care in the preparation of food-stuffs.

(d) Poultry

(i) the number of poultry processing premises within the district at 31st December is 3.
(ii) the number of visits to these premises was 38.
(iii) the total number of birds slaughtered during the year was about 3,149,120.
(iv) the types of birds processed were turkeys (3000) and broilers.
(v) the percentage of birds rejected as unfit for human consumption was .03%
(vi) weight of poultry condemned as unfit for human consumption is estimated to be approximately 2 tons 2 cwts per year.

(e) Slaughterhouses

There are no operational slaughterhouses in the district (for cattle etc.)

General

It is important the Council should realise the importance of staffing changes that are likely to be required in the future respecting the inspection of both poultry and red meats. As Britain becomes integrated more closely with the European Economic Community, it seems probable that supervision of poultry and meat inspection may pass to Veterinary Officers with others assisting them in their work. This condition is due to be in force in respect of poultry meat for export from February 15th 1973 and red meat exports are likely to be affected similarly by 1976.

Poultry and red meats for the home market seem likely to be treated also in a similar manner by 1976 although imports from non European Economic Community sources may be exempted for a little longer.

Factories Act 1961

Information in the form required by the Secretary of State for Employment is given in the table that follows:-

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health

	PREMISES	No. on Register	Inspections	Number of - Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i)	Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	8	5	-	-
(ii)	Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	108	17	-	-
(iii)	Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excl. Outworkers' premises)	7	5	-	-
		123	27	-	-

2. Cases in which Defects were found

PARTICULARS	No. of cases in which defects found				
	Found	Remedied	Referred - To H.M. Inspec.	Referred - By H.M. Inspec.	No. of Prosecutions
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	4	1	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	1	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	1	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (excluding Outworkers)	1	1	-	-	-
	9	3	-	-	-

Outworkers There are 7 Outworkers reported in the district, employed on the making of wearing apparel. There were no known cases of default in sending lists to the Council and no instances found of work in unwholesome premises.

There were 144 other visits to factory premises in connection with noise and dust nuisances, petrol installations etc.

Hitchin R.D.C. - Tuberculosis

No. on Register at 31st December, 1972

	Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary	63	38	101
Non-Pulmonary	10	11	21
	73	49	122

No. Removed from Register during 1972

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	Total
Deaths	1	-	-	-	1
Other (cured, rediagnosed transfers of area etc.	1	-	-	-	1
	2	-	-	-	2

Additions to Register during 1972

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	Total
New Notifications	3	-	-	-	3
Other (cases restored to register, transfers etc)	-	-	-	-	-
	3	-	-	-	3